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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /056 W
------------------082152 082055Z /63

R 081258Z SEP 82
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4683
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINGSTON 06609

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/5/86 (LAWRENCE, LOREN) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: ELECTROAL MACHINERY ALMOST IN PLACE

REF: STATE 233391

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER. ENUMERATION OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS WAS COMPLETED IN JULY, WITH ALMOST ONE MILLION VOTERS REGISTERED. KEYPUNCHING OF DATA ON VOTERS SHOULD BE FINISHED BY MID SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWING WHICH THE VOTERS LIST CAN BE PRINTED IN A WEEK'S TIME. SELECTION OF POLLING STATIONS AND THE TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICIALS ALSO ARE GOING FORWARD. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTROAL COMMITTEE WILL THEN INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE ELECTORAL MACHINERY IS IN PLACE. MANLEY WILL THEN ANNOUNCE THE DATE OF THE ELECTION, PROBABLY AT A PNP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON EITHER SEPTEMBER 28 OR OCTOBER 5. THE ELECTIONS WOULD OCCUR 23 DAYS LATER. IF THIS SCHEDULE IS FOLLOWED, THE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE EITHER OCTOBER 21 OR OCTOBER 28. END SUMMARY.

3. THE WORK OF REGISTERING ALL ELIGIBLE VOYERS, KNOWN HERE AS ENUMERATION, BEGAN JUNE 7 AS WAS COMPLETED IN VIRTUALLY ALL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY BY LATE JULY. THE ENUMERATION PROCESS WAS DELAYED IN A SMALL NUMBER OF POLLING DIVISIONS FOR REASONS OF SECURITY BY HAS SINCE BEEN COMPLETED. OF AN ESTIMATED 1.1 MILLION POTENTIAL VOTERS, SOME 978,000 HAVE BEEN REGISTERED.

4. EACH VOTER WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE BY AN ENUMERATOR, WHO RECORDED BASIC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON AN OFFICIAL FORM. THESE FORMS WERE COLLECTED DAILY BY THE OFFICER IN EACH OF THE 60 CONSTITUENCIES AND TRANSMITTED TO THE ELECTORAL OFFICE IN KINGSTON. EACH VOTER WAS GIVEN A REGISTRATION DOCUMENT WHICH HE HAS TO PRESENT AT THE POLLS IN ORDER TO VOTE.

5. ELECTION DIRECTOR CARL DUNDAS TOLD EMBOFFS AUGUST 23 THAT THE ENUMERATION PROCESS HAD GONE QUITE WELL. BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES HAD COOPERATED WITH THE ELECTION OFFICE AND THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY LESS VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ENUMERATORS OR VOTERS THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM A SEPARATE SOURCE THAT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING ENUMERATORS TO ENTER SOME GHETTO AREAS OF KINGSTON, AND THIS COULD MEAN THAT SOME VOTERS WERE NOT ABLE TO REGISTER.) DUNDAS CHARACTERIZED THE ENUMERATION PROCESS AS TWO-THIRDS OF THE EFFORT NEEDED TO ENSURE [illegible] ELECTIONS AND SEEMED SATISFIED THAT THIS INITIAL TWO-THIRDS HAD BEEN COMPLETED WITHOUT MAJOR DISCREPANCIES. HE HAD DETECTED SOME ATTEMPTS AT DUPLICATE REGISTRA-

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TION IN THE PROCESS OF COMPUTERIZING THE ENUMERATION RESULTS AND ADMITTED THAT DOUBLE REGISTRATION AND VOTING AT MORE THAN ONE POLLING STATION WAS DIFFICULT TO PREVENT COMPLETELY.

6. WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT VOTERS FROM CONSTITUENCIES WHERE [illegible]ER OF THE PARTIES WAS CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS WERE BROUGHT [illegible] MARGINAL CONSTITUENCIES TO BE ENUMERATED. ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW HOW WIDESPREAD THIS PRACTICE HAS BEEN, IT APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED AT LEAST IN SEVERAL OF THE KINGSTON CONSTITUENCIES. JLP CANDIDATE LESLIE LLOYD, WHO IS RUNNING AGAINST O.K. DUNCAN IN EAST CENTRAL KINGSTON, CLAIMS THAT 3,000 VOTERS FROM HUGH SPAULDING'S CONSTITUENCY, WHERE THE PNP IS CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS, WERE ENUMERATED IN DUNCAN'S CONSTITUENCY. LLOYD COMMENTED THAT "SMART POLITICIANS" ENGAGED IN THIS PRACTICE ELSEWHERE, IMPLYING THAT BOTH PARTIES USED THIS TACTIC TO IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES IN CLOSELY CONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES. A JAMAICA HOUSE SOURCE ALSO STATES THAT BOTH PARTIES ENGAGED IN THIS PRACTICE.

EXCISE

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 NSC-05
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 6609

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 9/8/86 (WEB, (b) 5) TAGS: PINT, PGOV, JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICA: ELECTION PREPARATIONS

7. SINCE EARLY AUGUST THE ELECTORAL PREPARATION EFFORT HAS CONCENTRATED ON COMPUTERIZING THE RESULTS OF THE ENUMERATION. DATA ON VOTERS IS BEING ENTERED INTO THE COMPUTERS AR THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS OFFICE AND AT THE KINGSTON AND HAITIAN OFFICES OF DATA KEY JAMAICA LTD. AN AMERICAN FIRM, AND ALSO AT ONE LOCAL JAMAICA DATA PROCESSING COMPANY. THIS PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED SHORTLY, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HEARD SOME COMPLAINTS THAT THE TAPES FROM HAITI ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE AND CONTAIN NUMEROUS TRANSCIRPTION ERRORS WHICH REQUIRE CORRECTION. THE OFFICIAL LIST OF ELECTORS WILL THEN BE PRINTED LOCALLY IN A PERIOD OF ABOUT EIGHT DAYS. LIST MUST BE PRINTED FOR EACH OF THE 5,337 POLLING DIVISIONS IN THE COUNTRY. THE TARGET FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE PRINTING IS THE THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, AND DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONSMUNDAC EXPECTS THIS TAGET DATE TO BE MET.

8. IN ADDITION TO PREPARING THE VOTERS LISTS, THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS ALSO BEEN TRAINING THE 60 RETURNING OFFICERS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, SELECTING POLLING STATIONS AND CHOOSING POLL CLERKS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS WHO WILL WORK AT THE POLLING STATIONS. DUNDAS TOLD US THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO LIMIT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELEECTORAL MANUPULATION. HE SAID THAT CERTAIN DETAILS OF INSTRUCTIONS TO RETURNING OFFICERS WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE MUCH IN ADVANCE OF ELECTION DAY TO THE JLP AND PNP MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DISCOVER AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY LOOPHOLES IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

9. ONCE THE LIST OF ELECTORS ANS BEEN PRINTED AND OTHER PREPARATIONS COMPLETED, CHAIRMAN OF TH ELECTORAL COMMITTEE GLADSTON MILLS WILL SO INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER, PROBABLY AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. IN ANNOUNCING LAST FEBRUARY HIS INTERNTION TO HOLD ELECTIONS, MANLEY HAD STATED PUBLICKLY THAT "AS SOON AS THE ELECTOAL COMMITTEE IS ABLE TO ADVISE ME THAT AN APPROPRIATE NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM IS IN PLACE, I SHALL IMMEDIATELY CALL A NEW ELECTION." MANLEY HAS TWICE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS THAT HE EXPECTED ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER AND SAID THAT SAME THING PUBLICLY AUGUST 25 ON THE TODAY SHOW.

10. IT IS WIDELY ANTICIPATED THAT MANLEY WILL ANNOUNCE THA CTUAL DATE OF THE ELECTIONS AT A WEEKEND PNP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING. THIS HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 21 BUT IS SLIPPING TO SEPTEMBER 28 OT OCTOBER 5 IN MONTEGO BAY. WE HAVE HEARD RUMOR THAT SOME WITHIN THE PARTY WANT TO DELAY THE MEETING AND OR THE ELECTIONS IN HOPES OF IMPROVING THE PARTY'S CHANCES. HOWEVER, THE IMMINENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRISIS PRESURRES THE GOJ TO HOLD THE ELCTIONS AT AN EARLY DATE BEFORE IT BECOMES WIDELY KNOWN THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGHT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO MEET ALL OF JAMAICA'S EXTERNAL OBLIGATIONS.

11. THE MINIMUM OFFICIAL COMPAIGN PERIOD REQUIRED BY JAMAICAN LAW BETWEEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION AND THE ELECTION ITSELF IS TWENTY THREE DAYS. A SENIOR PNP SOURCE WHO IS CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD AMB. OFF SEPTEMBER 5 THAT THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE NO LONGER THAN TWENTY THREE DAYS. USING THIS CALCULUS, THE ELECTION WOULD TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 21 IF THE PRIME MINISTER IS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE ON SEPTEMBER 28, AND OCTOBER 28, IF HE ANNOUNCES THE DATE ON OCTOBER 5, GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT MILLS WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO STATE THAT ALL PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS ARE COMPLETED UNTIL THE END OF SEPTEMBER OUR BEST ESTIMATE AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 28

LAWRENCE

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